UNION LEAGUE CLUB

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Memorial

to

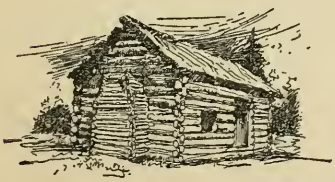
Abraham Lincoln in the Hall of Fame

New York University, New York City

THE Public Affairs Committee of the Union League Club of Chicago to the People of Illinois:

The Union League Club of Chicago has been invited by the governing authorities of New York University to assist in securing a bronze replica of the head of Saint-Gauden's statue of Abraham Lincoln and in placing it in the Hall of Fame of that institution among the memorials of the world's greatest characters.

Such a memorial to Lincoln would be an incentive to the youth of the land to emulate his patriotism, his devotion to the preservation of the Union and his support of the Federal Constitution.



Lincoln was born February 12th, 1809, in a log cabin on the banks of Nolin Creek, Hardin County Kentucky.

His passion for education was so great that even in his earliest boyhood, often with only the light from the logs of the fireplace, he studied all the books that he could borrow. Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," Weems' "Life of Washington," Aesop's "Fables," "Robinson Crusoe," and the Bible were the favorite books of his boyhood.

In 1816 the Lincoln family moved to southern Indiana. Here, two years later, occurred

Lincoln's first great sorrow, the death of his mother, of whom, nearly half a century later, he said to William H. Seward: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother,—blessings on her memory."

Here in the virgin timber of Indiana Lincoln grew to his famous stature of six feet and four inches. While he loved peace and harmony, when necessity arose he often demonstrated his ability to maintain order among his fellows by his prowess as a wrestler. But he was always an advocate of honesty and fair play.

In 1830 the Lincoln family moved to Illinois, where they settled near Decatur. It was here that Lincoln split the rails that made him the "Rail Splitter" of the campaign of 1860.

In 1831 he settled at New Salem on the Sangamon River. He took the first work that he could find. He endeavored to give honest service in every occupation.

In the spring of 1831 he went down the Mississippi on his eventful trip to New Orleans. There he beheld a sight which permanently shaped his career, Negroes herded like cattle and sold on the auction block. Against this inhumanity his sense of right and justice rebelled. On his trip back from New Orleans he said to a companion: "If ever I

get a chance to hit that thing, I'll hit it hard!"

In the Blackhawk War Lincoln was elected a Captain of a volunteer company in which he had enlisted, "a success," so he said in 1859, "which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since."

In 1832 he became an unsuccessful candidate for the Illinois Legislature on a platform of his own composition, which ended thus: "But, if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined."

In 1834 he was elected to the Illinois Legislature, where he served four terms, retiring in 1841 to engage in the practice of law at Springfield, Illinois. He had been admitted to the bar in 1837.

In 1846 Lincoln was elected to Congress. He took his seat in December, 1847, as a member of the Thirtieth Congress.

In 1858 Lincoln was nominated for United States Senator in opposition to Stephen A. Douglas. In his speech of acceptance he said: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe that this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

In the famous debates Douglas declared that slavery should be permitted wherever the majority of the people wanted it.

Lincoln objected to the extension of slavery into territory where it did not already exist.

He said: "I think slavery is wrong morally and politically."

Lincoln was defeated for Senator, but his debates made him a national figure. His address at Cooper Union in New York City, February 27, 1860, one of his great speeches, brought him to the more favorable notice of the East.

So great was Lincoln's influence on slavery that when he ran for President in 1860 the slave states became afraid that if he should be elected slavery would be destroyed.

Lincoln's policy during the six years preceding his election as President was to stress the real question of right and wrong which lay at the bottom of slavery.

Lincoln was nominated in May, 1860, for President by a Convention in Chicago in the Wigwam erected for the occasion.

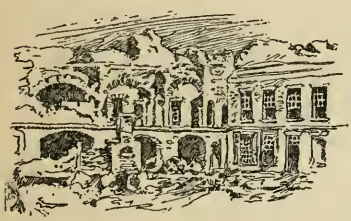
Courtesy Chicago Historical Society

There followed Lincoln's election in November, 1860, the first step toward the disorganization of the Union. The southern states carried out their threat and attempted to secede from the Union.

Lincoln was inaugurated President March 4, 1861. In his First Inaugural Address he said: "I hold that, in contemplation of universal law and the Constitution, the Union of these states is perpetual. * * * No state, upon its own mere motion, can lawfully get out of the Union. * * * Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance in Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust in the best way all

our present difficulty. * * * The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressor. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Soon after his inauguration the storm broke. Fort Sumter was fired upon April 14, 1861. Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers April 15, 1861.



True to his word, Lincoln began the campaign to maintain the Union. In 1862 he said: "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery."

September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued his preliminary proclamation of emancipation, giving the slave states in rebellion until January 1, 1863, to come back into the Union. January 1, 1863, he issued his final proclamation that all slaves in the rebellious states were free.

In November, 1863, Lincoln delivered his famous oration at Gettysburg, one of the masterpieces of the world's literature, declaring, "that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

In 1864 Lincoln was elected President for a second time, and was inaugurated March 4, 1865. In his Second Inaugural Address he said: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right,—let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

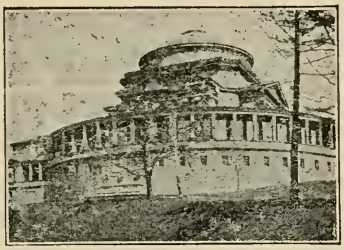
Lee surrendered to Grant April 9, 1865. The war was ended. Lincoln had saved the Union. Hardly had the rejoicing commenced over the end of the war when it was turned to grief by the assassin's bullet on April 14, 1865.

Lincoln's work was done. He had saved the Nation which Washington created. We are the beneficiaries of his patriotic life and death.

The Lincoln Centennial Association has established the custom of celebrating Lincoln's birthday every year, by holding assemblies throughout the Nation in his honor, thus preserving to posterity the memory of his words and works and stimulating the patriotism of the youth of the land.

If the anniversary of the birth of Lincoln is not celebrated in your community, will you not endeavor to have it celebrated there?

Statues of our patriots in parks and public buildings are an inspiration to the youth of the country. They create patriotism and devotion to the Union and inspire an earnest purpose to defend and support the Constitution. Among such statues Lincoln and Washington should stand together.



HALL OF FAME, NEW YORK

The Public Affairs Committee has assumed the direction of a campaign to raise the necessary funds to defray the expenses of making the bust of Lincoln and placing it in the Hall of Fame.

Patriotism—love of one's country, the passion which moves a person to serve his country either in defending it from invasion, or in protecting its rights and maintaining its laws and institutions.

CENTURY DICTIONARY

Patriotism—All civic virtues, all the heroism and self sacrifice of patriotism, spring ultimately from the habit men acquire of regarding their Nation as a great organic whole, identifying themselves with its fortunes in the past as in the present, and looking forward anxiously to its future destinies.

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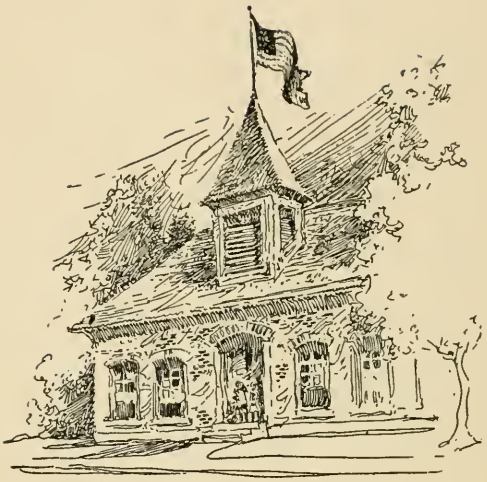
Patriotism is that spirit which is not acquired with birth. It must be induced into the heart of every person. It is a matter of education, environment, upbuilding and nurturing, which when attained, leads men, women and children to suffer, bleed and die for their country.



Every American school house, while school is in session, should fly the American flag.